

Mr. Speaker, House Democrats vow to never leave a veteran behind after returning from war by ensuring that they receive the quality care and benefits they have earned. That includes living up to the promise of providing them access to quality higher education.

PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL

(Mr. KUHLMAN of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUHLMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pioneer Middle School located in Yorkshire, New York. Last month, Pioneer Middle School was recognized as one of two Essential Elementary Schools to Watch in New York State. Pioneer is the first middle school in western New York to achieve this prestigious honor. Presently, only 10 middle schools in all of New York State have achieved this recognition over the past 4 years.

This award exemplifies the talent and dedication that these educators and parents demonstrate every day. The school has shown tremendous progress since being named a School in Need of Improvement by the Department of Education in 2004.

As these teachers, students, and parents gather to celebrate this wonderful accomplishment, I want to offer my sincere congratulations. Let the Pioneer Middle School serve as a beacon for schools around the Nation to see that excellence and success comes from devoted teachers and parents.

NATIONAL TEACHERS DAY

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, last week, we celebrated National Teachers Day. That day represents one small token of our Nation's gratitude for the long hours and hard work our teachers endure to prepare our students for future endeavors. As a product of the Jefferson County, Colorado public schools, I can attest to the wonderful influence educators have had on my life, as well as on the lives of my three daughters.

I believe we as a Nation cannot thank enough our men and women currently serving in our public education system, such as my sister Cassie, for all that they do. I particularly want to take a moment to recognize the teachers in Adams, Arapahoe, and Jefferson County, Colorado, who enrich the education of our children and have a positive impact on our communities.

We must continue to invest in our public schools and colleges and ensure our educators have the tools and resources they need to give our children the high quality education to succeed in this increasingly competitive economy. Our teachers are dedicated, valuable public servants whom we owe a sincere debt of gratitude.

WAITING FOR AN ENERGY PLAN

(Mr. MICA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, the Democrats have had control of the Congress now for a year and a half. We are still waiting for an energy plan. We are going to celebrate Memorial Day this weekend. We are still waiting for an energy plan. What have the Democrats done so far as an energy plan? Well, let's just take a look at it.

This is a spoon from the House cafeteria. They bought this spoon at great expense to the taxpayers, and it is a green spoon. In fact, it melts in your coffee. This is Exhibit 1. What have the Democrats done when gas is \$4? Well, go down to the gift store and you will see these Green the Capitol bags. So now we have, at greater expense to the taxpayer, printed these little Green the Capitol bags.

Now what is the centerpiece of their energy policy when you're going to pay \$4 a gallon and more around the country for gasoline? They are going to change the light and green the light on the top of the Capitol. Just the study, I'm told, is going to be \$800,000, and then millions of dollars. And \$4 gas.

DEMOCRATS HELP AMERICANS WHO HAVE BEEN HURT DURING ECONOMIC RECESSION

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the economic recession has been particularly hard on lower- and middle-income families. But over the last month, this House has passed important legislation that will make a real difference in their lives. These families were already having trouble squeezing enough money out of their monthly paychecks to pay for the basic necessities. Now imagine how much more difficult that is with the dramatic increases in the cost of foods like bread, milk and eggs.

Last week, in strong bipartisan fashion, this House passed a final farm bill that invests an additional \$10.4 billion in nutrition programs so that 38 million American families do not have to go hungry. Our constituents are also rightfully concerned about their jobs. Over the last 4 months alone, 260,000 jobs have been lost. Finding a new job is not necessarily easy in today's economy. That is why this House passed an extension of unemployment benefits last week, giving unemployed workers an additional 13 weeks to find a job.

Mr. Speaker, this Democratic House is delivering results that will benefit families that have been forgotten for far too long.

ROADMAP FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

(Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a roadmap for America's future, legislation to transform our Federal Government, to reform the Nation's health care entitlements, Social Security, and the Federal Tax Code. My legislation does three things: It fulfills the mission of health and retirement security for all Americans by making Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid permanently solvent. Second, it lifts the massive debt burden off of future generations. Third, it promotes solid, sustained economic growth and job creation, and puts the U.S. in a position to lead, not merely to survive in the global marketplace.

This is a real plan, with real proposals, with real numbers to back them up, and real legislation to implement it. I recognize that this is an ambitious proposal. Not everyone's going to agree with every part of it. That is fine. These problems are not Democratic problems and they are not Republican problems, and neither are the solutions.

We need to build bipartisan support for action in Congress. If nothing else, it is my sincere hope that this will spur Congress to move beyond simply rehashing the problem, to debating and implementing actual solutions for the American people.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, the New York Times today has got an article predicting \$200 a barrel for crude oil in the not-too-distant-future. The laws of supply and demand, the economic law of supply and demand works. This House, led by this majority, has passed bill after bill after bill whose intent and whose implication is to increase the costs to generate energy, whether its electricity or gasoline. Those policies specifically demand higher prices. If there was a cheaper way to generate electricity or drive our cars, we would already be using those cheaper methods.

So the policies are to raise the prices, and the twisted logic is they then come down here and speaker after speaker gripes and complains about those exact high prices, which is the direct result of what their policies are putting in place.

Yesterday, in a staggering twist of illogic, is to pass, as a part of that bill that was passed yesterday, to unleash our Department of Justice on the very producers that we are trying to incent to produce more crude oil and natural gas on an unfettered witch hunt that will cost millions and millions of dollars and result in absolutely zero.

It's wrong policy. The American people need to speak up.